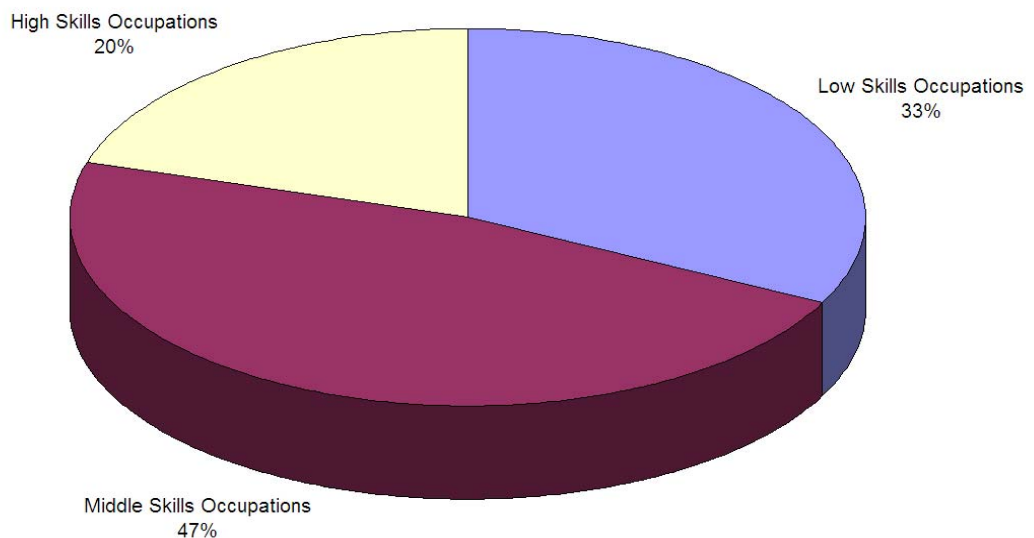


UTAH'S MIDDLE-SKILL JOBS

Utah has long enjoyed a reputation as a hotbed of innovation and excellence, with globally recognized businesses producing cutting edge technologies and high-value services. Utah ranked third in a recent Kauffman Foundation report about states best positioned to succeed in the new economy, and Forbes.com recently listed Utah as number four on their ranking of “Best States for Business.” The Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) has had unprecedented success over the past few years in attracting high-tech, high-wage jobs to Utah. Thus far they report that they have not lost a competitive bid to another state due to the lack of a quality workforce. There’s no question that our highly skilled workforce has played a key role in our state’s growth and success in recent decades, and we have much to be proud of in terms of educational attainment, however, we cannot rest on our laurels. Utah must invest in both high-and middle-skill workers to ensure our businesses have the talent they need for the state to remain a global leader in the innovation economy.

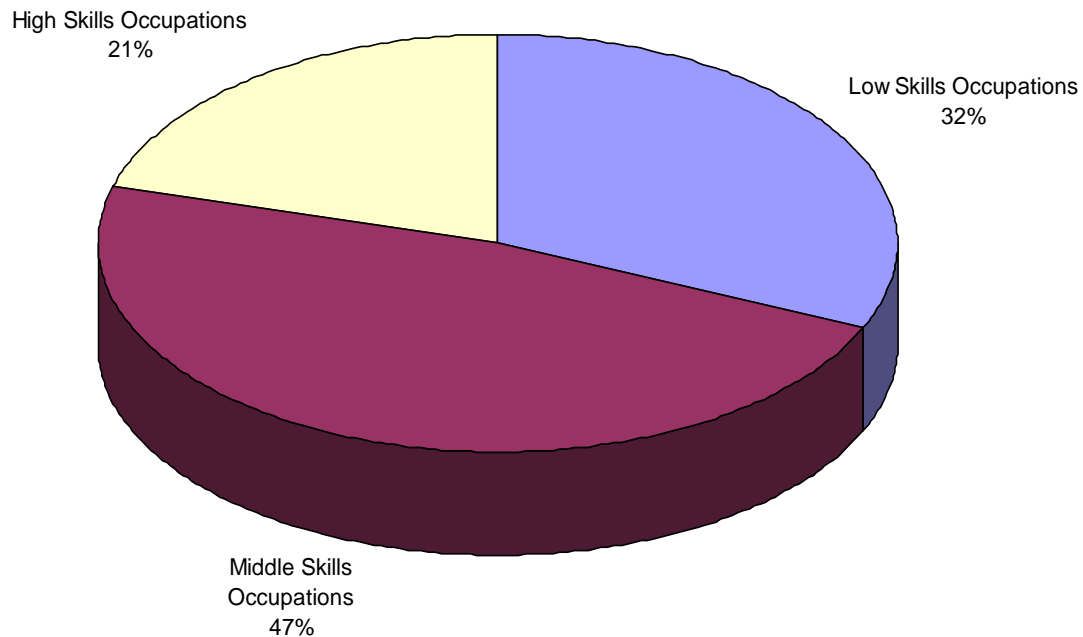
Conventional wisdom holds that our nation is headed for—or perhaps is already experiencing—an “hourglass” or “dumbbell” economy: a bifurcated labor market with a small number of highly skilled, highly paid workers and a much larger number of low-skill, low-paid workers. Within such a model, middle-skill occupations—the jobs that fueled the expansion of the world’s largest economy and provided the foundation for a robust American middle class—are on the verge of extinction. It’s a bleak picture, to be sure. It’s also a myth. Nationally nearly half (about 45 percent) of all job openings between 2004 and 2014 will be at the middle-skill level. This compares with one-third of job openings in high-skill occupational categories and 22 percent in occupations requiring no more than a high school degree. This holds true in Utah, as well. Almost half of our jobs in 2006 were middle-skill jobs (47 percent), and our projections to 2016 show this holding steady.

Typical Skills Requirements for Occupations in Utah (2006)



Note: Low skills occupations typically require: short-term on-the-job training. Middle skills occupations typically require: medium-term and long-term on-the-job training, work experience in a related occupation, post-secondary vocational training, or an associates degree. High skills occupations typically require: bachelor's degree, bachelor's degree or higher degree and work experience, master's degree, first professional degree, or a doctoral degree.
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Typical Skills Requirements for Occupations in Utah (2016)



Note: Low skills occupations typically require: short-term on-the-job training. Middle skills occupations typically require: medium-term and long-term on-the-job training, v in a related occupation, post-secondary vocational training, or an associates degree. High skills occupations typically require: bachelor's degree, bachelor's degree or and work experience, master's degree, first professional degree, or a doctoral degree.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Examples of Essential Middle Skill Jobs in Utah

Automotive Service Technicians
Bus and Truck Technicians
Chemical Technicians
Civil Engineering Technicians
Computer Support Specialists
Electrical and Electronics Repairers
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians
Emergency Medical Technicians
Environmental Engineering Technicians
Environmental Science Technicians
Industrial Engineering Technicians
Interior Designers
Legal Secretaries
Licensed Practical Nurse
Mechanical Drafters
Mechanical Engineering Technicians
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians
Medical Equipment Repairers
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians
Preschool Teachers
Radiologic Technologist and Technician
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Semiconductor Processors
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers